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Deutschland nebst Böhmen und dem Mündungsgebiet des Rheins.

Die geographische Gestaltung des Landes als Grundlage für die Entwicklung von Handel, Industrie und Ackerbau mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Seestädte. Von Prof. Dr. Albert Zweck. x and 238 pp., 42 Illustrations in the Text, and Index.

B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1908. Price, M. 4.

A study of the industrial and commercial conditions of Germany as based upon the geology of the country and its physiographic features. These factors are, of course, fundamental in their influence upon the development of human enterprise. Future books on economic geography will be partly judged by the adequacy with which they treat the influence of geology and physical geography in shaping and directing man's work. Dr. Zweck's book is an admirable example of this method of developing the subject of economic geography. He applies it to all parts of Germany, gives the essential facts relating to their geology, the genesis of their land forms and soils, the effects of these factors upon production, the influence of climate, the origin and distribution of coal, iron and other mineral resources, etc. In discussing the low plain of the upper Rhine (*Oberrheinische Tiefebene*), for example, he tells of the sinking of this "Grabenbruch" from the Tertiary to the Ice Age; of the later Tertiary and Quaternary deposits that covered the sunken area, especially with loess, which tillers of the soil have found to be peculiarly adapted for the cultivation of cereals, orchard fruits, the vine and hops; of the warmer climate of this valley plain, hemmed in by hills, giving it the warmest and longest summer in Germany and thus intensifying the effect upon production of the superior soil. While Dr. Zweck emphasizes natural influences, he does not fail to show what human genius and invention have done to stimulate the wonderful development of industry in the past generation. Part II is a study of the trade and communications of Germany. The book may heartily be commended to teachers as a logical, forceful and scientific method of presenting to students the subject of economic geography.

Régions naturelles et noms de pays. Étude sur la région parisienne. Par M. L. Gallois, prof. adj. à l'université de Paris. Librairie Armand Colin, Paris. 1908. Pr., fr. 8.

The word country (*pays*) is used in this treatise in the same meaning that R. T. Hill found attributed to it colloquially in certain parts of Texas, namely, designating "local districts" whose names are derived either from their locations or from "specific natural features" of the respective regions. The geography of the Old World is especially rich in such "country" names which are often entirely different from the political nomenclature of the region, and the author's object in this book is to determine, in the case of the Parisian region, whether these popular names actually correspond to "specific natural features" and thus represent distinct natural divisions of the country, and if so to determine the character of these natural features that are at the bottom of this distinction. He has spared no pains to ascertain the history and application of each name both from ancient geographies and maps and from actual observation and examination of the inhabitants and the ways in which they use these names, and, after a careful analysis of each case, he makes the following classification:

The first group of these names has a purely historical origin. They are, either names of former provinces or military governments corresponding, to a certain degree, to the old feudal domains which had grown up in the course of

political events, such as Brittany, Normandy, Burgundy, Lorraine, etc., or names of old-time counties, such as Valois, Gâtinais, Vexin, etc. The second group is characterized by the derivation of the country name from the name of the city, such as Montois, Laonnais, Soissonnais, etc., each meaning simply the environs of that respective city, and hence without any special geographical value. The third is the really geographical group, because the names belonging to it have been in use for centuries without ever designating any political division, such as Beauce, Brie, etc. They were used, indeed, to designate ecclesiastic subdivisions, dioceses and the like; but in each case the name was older than its clerical use, and the clerical division was named after the country, not *vice versa*. So there is no doubt that with regard to these names the popular nomenclature originated in the character of the country itself. Those distinctive features which characterize the region to which such a name applies are as a rule its agricultural aspects, which is no wonder in a country so eminently agricultural as France. While, of course, geological differences underlie these more superficial criteria, there is no direct connection between them and the popular conception of the name. Thus Beauce, for instance, while coinciding with the limestone plateau which extends toward the Loire River south of Paris, is to the peasant the rich wheat country. Gâtinais, on the other hand, while historically the country on both sides of the Loing River, has, under the influence of different geographical conditions, suffered a restriction of the popular signification of the name: at present Gâtinais means the country of vineyards on the western bank of that river, while the country on its eastern bank, a country of orchards and cider, is popularly distinguished from it as Puisaye. Still another case is that of Multien, which once meant the country around Meaux, but under the influence of the famous Beauce, whose culture extended into it, the name disappeared in the part adjoining that region and what is now left of it is localized in the northern part of its former area, so that Meaux itself does not belong to it any more—a case of migration and restriction of a country name which resembles very closely the fate of the name of Saxony on German soil, save that in the latter case the change was due to political instead of cultural, factors. The chief cities of these natural regions are not, as a rule, located in the centre, but owing to the fact that the “country” name designates an economic or cultural unit, they have sprung up along the boundaries of the various regions, under the influence of the contact of contrasting products, and the exchange and commerce connected with them.

The appendices are no less valuable than the text. One of them contains a practically complete cartography of the Parisian region because, in his consultations of the old maps with regard to the use of the names, the author handled almost every one of them that is accessible and was able to make a classified catalogue of them which is in itself a very valuable contribution to the historical geography of this part of France. Eight plates reproduce the most interesting features of some of these maps.

M. K. G.

Le Berry. Contribution à l'étude géographique d'une région française. By Antoine Vacher of the University of Rennes.

Paris, 1908. Librairie Armand Colin. Pr., 15 fr.

The old province of Berry, the country inside the great bend of the Loire River, is one of the historico-geographic divisions of France. The author wishes to determine if it is the product of purely political influences, or if natural factors have entered into its becoming such a well-defined unit. With this point in view,